

Newsletter of the

BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

August 1999



It's going to be Buncom Night at "The Trail Band" Show

***Get your tickets now and
join us***

"The Trail Band," fast becoming a Northwest institution, is coming back to Medford in December and once again, Buncom will be out in force to welcome them.

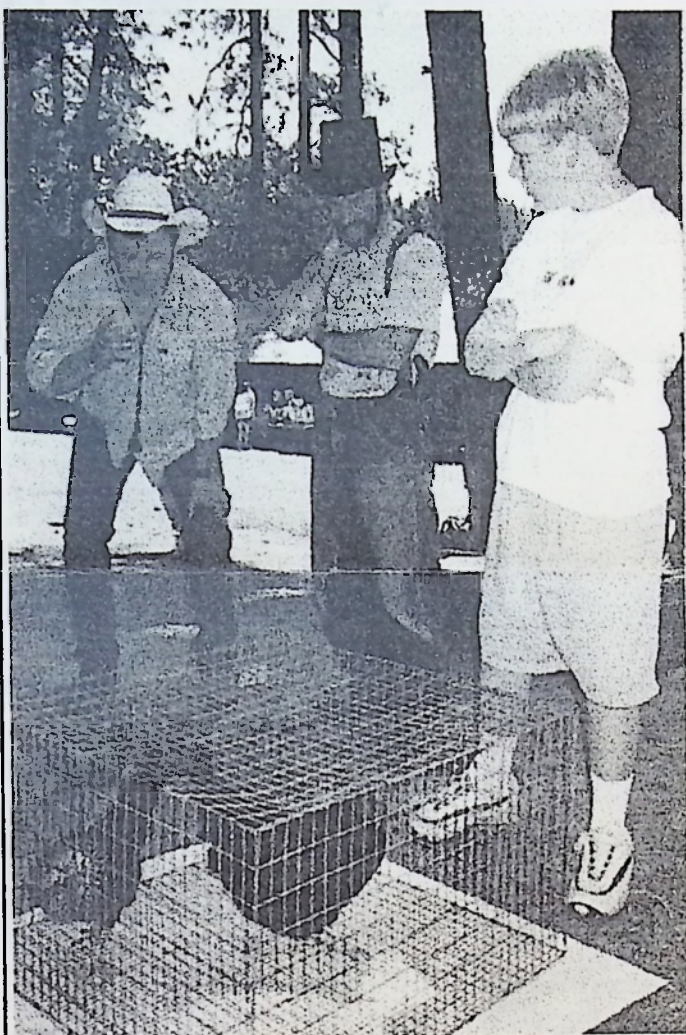
The popular band of musicians and vocalists will bring their Christmas Show back to the Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater in Medford on Friday night, December 3, at 8 p.m. We have reserved a block of tickets for Buncom Historical Society members.

Not only that, but prior to the show there will be a private no-host reception, for Buncom attendees only, at the theater at 7 p.m.

So far, nearly 40 people have signed up, and you are invited to join us. There is a special discount price for tickets of \$18 each.

Tickets are limited, so if you want to go, or want more information, call Lyn Hennion right away (work 772-6826, or at home 899-7656).

The Trail Band debuted several years ago, commissioned to do a special Oregon Trail performance which was performed internationally. Since then, they have added the Christmas show, and do it about 2 dozen times during the Christmas season throughout the Northwest, featuring Christmas favorites, along with stories and humor, from the past and the present.



LOTS OF EXCITEMENT AT THE CHICKEN SPLAT CONTEST

"C'mon, you've gotta move to the right!" Or maybe the left. Billy Thomson and Bjorn Everson root on the chickens to the dismay of an onlooker at Buncom Day in May. (More on Buncom Day inside.)

From Buncom's history:

Farming in the Applegate

By Myrtle Krouse

It makes me put my tongue in my cheek these days when I hear newcomers expounding the wisdom that the Applegate could become a produce-growing area!

The Applegate began as a produce-growing area.

The Rexfords' shipped, boxed, wrapped and crated apples by carload lots. Clinton Cook, Dorris Wagner's grandfather, had a peach orchard in the field above my house. Flossie used to tell me about how they sold raspberries by the crate to the Schmidts in Grants Pass ...

Over on Messinger Road they grew melons they sold in carload lots and shipped north. Ed Hanum grew his whole place in cabbage and cauliflower. Bert Clute grew peanuts, tomatoes and onions. The Heads sold cherries and apricots. Seyforth's also grew apricots.

Even as late as the '30s Doris Gammil packed Louie Carson's grapes in boxes for fair displays - like Abraham Lincoln's face, the American flag, etc. They went to Sacramento.

When we came to pick blackberries for Gertrude Finley in 1924, they were hauling berries by truckload lots to a cannery in Ashland.

The thing about "truck gardening" in the Applegate is, our winters are mild enough to keep most root crops in the ground and dig as needed, like beets, carrots, turnips, rutabagas and parsnips.

Some 500 enjoy 1999 Buncom Day Celebration

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

As always, our sponsors are a big part of Buncom Day and we want to make sure they are recognized:

- Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater
 - Upper Applegate Grange
 - Costco
 - Ruch Country Store
 - Grange Co-op
 - Bella Union Restaurant
 - SOHS History Store
 - G&A Candles
 - Sawmill Cafe
 - Mary Whitford
 - Carolyn Roberts
 - Anonymous
-

Every farm produced their share of eggs and butter - it's how they bought their own necessities.

The catch is now, no one wants to work that hard. Who wants to pick 2 or 3 crates of red raspberries before breakfast? Who wants to hand-water a field of cabbage before the sun comes up? Think about it, this was before refrigeration. Butter had to be made before the day got hot.

Show me a place to equal the good ol' Applegate and I'll show you Shangri-la.

(Reprinted from the newsletter of the Applegate Valley Historical Society.)

Buncom Day, which marks the start of summer on Memorial Day weekend each year, played to a happy family crowd again this year, the sixth annual event.

As always, food, music, craft vendors, demonstrations, the parade and a lot of good socializing took place throughout the day on May 29.

Mary Ann Bryan brought her 92-year-old grandmother who lives in San Juan Capistrano, Calif.

"She's really into it," Mary Ann said, and quoted her grandmother as saying, "It's the best hot dog I ever had!"

Obviously, contratulations are due the Upper Applegate Grange, which once again put on the barbecue.

Also drawing a steady stream of interest through the day was Larry Goins, who fascinates everyone with his gold-panning demonstrations.

Liz Henderson provided another top draw with free wagon rides around the Buncom neighborhood.

The parade had a new and special feature this year: A band! It was a one-man band, provided by Bjorn Everson, who tooted and tapped his way past the cheering crowd.

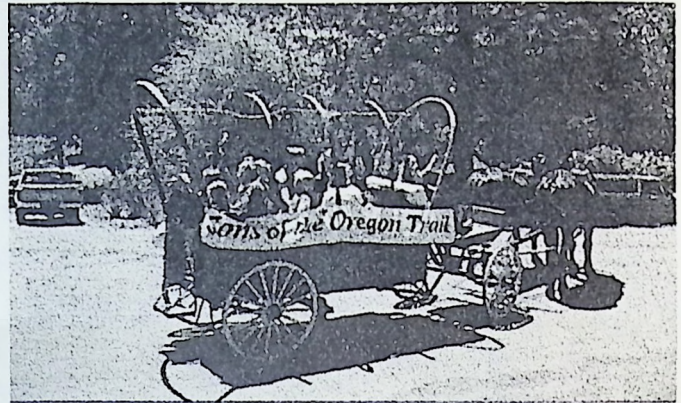
And we had several stick-horse riders, and even a float.

Thanks to everyone who came, and everyone who helped make the day another success.

LOTS OF FUN AT BUNCOM DAY



The crowd gathers to watch a special presentation - an urban refugee receiving his "Cowboy" diploma.



Liz Henderson provided the popular wagon tours of Buncom and vicinity.



One-man-band Bjorn Everson marches with the Stick-horse Brigade in the parade.



Ida Gearon and Bruce Campbell enjoy the barbecue provided by the Upper Applegate Grange.

Read Your Way To Their Hearts

"SMART" volunteers spend an hour each week reading with individual students, an hour they look forward to and which shows demonstrable results.

Ruch Elementary School is looking for volunteers. If you want to help the kids in our community, call 776-8638 and tell Susan Bothwell you'll sign up!

NEW OR RENEWING MEMBERS SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER

Chuck & Ruby Drobkiewicz, Jacksonville, OR
Ken & Samantha Holyome, Jacksonville, OR
Trillium Community Land Trust, Jacksonville
OR
Tom & Chris Russell, Jacksonville, OR
Billy & Lori Thomson, Jacksonville, OR
Jeff Beverly & Tristan Evans, Jacksonville, OR
Elwin & Lela Wines, Jacksonville, OR
Marvin & Lilli Ann Rosenberg, Jacksonville,
OR
Tony & Betty Bauer, Medford, OR
Yvonne Earnest, Medford, OR
Dick & Mary Heimann, Medford, OR
Al & Roxanne Pratt, Medford, OR
Sue & Peter Rasmussen, Medford, OR
Kathy Johnson, McMinnville, OR
Margot & Kurt Vetter, Ruhpohling, Germany

WELCOME, BUNKY!



Meet Bunky, who became a part of Bonnie Guokas's household on Buncom Day. Bonnie said she picked him up after leaving the festivities, so she named him in Buncom's honor.

She said his favorite playmate is a 170-pound dog named Willie. She says he will be a large dog and loves to swim and chew on his toys -- as well as anything else in the vicinity!

Notes from Buncom's Neighborhood

Donna Epstein walked 60 miles to celebrate her birthday in August as a fund-raiser for ACCESS, Inc. She and husband Matt are active in the organization's food distribution program and run the Ruch operation. Congratulations, Donna!

Al Gershen, Bill Bass and Warren Merz were featured in a full-page article about Buncom in the Northwest agricultural weekly Capital Press. The article described our efforts to save Buncom's buildings and history, and told all about Buncom Day. It was in the paper's July 23, 1999, edition. Thanks to Capitol Press staff writer Tam Moore -- a Society member -- for doing the story. A copy is posted on the Buncom bunkhouse.

Bob and Sharon Charles have taken on the task of picking up litter along the lower end of Little Applegate Road. That means we have litter pickup now all the way past Buncom. Keypoint Services takes care of the upper part of the road.

Bob Reeve Vroman, a member of our Society whose grandfather panned for gold on Sterling Creek, died recently in Medford at the age of 79. Bob contributed the oldest photograph we have of Buncom, one he took in the 1950s.

For the second year in a row, Society Board member Lyn Hennion was named one of the nation's 250 top financial advisers by "Worth" magazine.

Let's Not Forget the All-Important Annual Work Party



Don Flower and Jerry McGrew take a break from Work Party day to share a little camaraderie.

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES JOIN TOGETHER

The Jackson County History Museums Association is the umbrella group for more than a dozen local historical societies in Jackson County and the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

The group (our Society is a member) meets monthly to discuss issues of mutual interest. An important function of the Association is to adopt rules under which the local societies can qualify for taxpayer funding. However, our Society does not seek public funds; the limited amount of funding we need to maintain the buildings is raised at Buncom Day and through private donations.

An important part of the preparation for Buncom Day is the annual work party, held on the Saturday preceding the big event. Every year 25 to 30 Society members and neighbors show up to help clean up the grounds, sweep out the buildings, and generally get the site in shape.

Not only do their efforts result in a cleaner and more attractive Buncom, but the army of weed-eaters clears the weeds and brush around the buildings, significantly reducing the fire danger.

We want to thank all of you who contribute a couple of hours to Buncom. It's an important way that we maintain the site for the enjoyment of all of us, as well as all of those to attend Buncom Day or stop by during the summer.

DIRECTORS

Reeve Hennion, President
Lyn Hennion
899-7656

J.B. Roberts, Secretary
Carolyn Roberts, Treasurer
899-1125

Ron Marchetti
Donna Marchetti
899-1263

Ben Fowler
Connie Fowler
899-7805

The Buncom Historical Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the buildings and history of the ghost town of Buncom, Oregon. Society address: 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530

On the Internet:
www.mind.net/buncom/

To join the Society: Send \$5.00 with your name and address to the Society at 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
3232 Little Applegate Road
Jacksonville, OR 97530

U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 33
Jacksonville, OR 97530
BULK MAIL

Eagle Point Hist. Society
P.O. Box 201
Eagle Point, OR 97524